

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 12, delete the entire paragraph of the **Abstract** section and substitute the following paragraph therefor:

A method and apparatus for increasing the allowable transmission rate of Digital Subscriber Lines (~~DSL(s)~~) (DSLs) in a binder group. The ~~DSL(s)~~ DSLs in the binder group are monitored to determine their actual transmission rate. The allowable transmission rate of individual ~~DSL(s)~~ DSLs is adjusted in order to make sure that it does not exceed some target level, but that in case many lines are inactive or in a keep-alive mode, that the transmission rate of the active lines can be substantially higher than the transmission rate based on all lines being active and transmitting at their maximum rate. ~~Advantageously~~ Advantageously, the actual throughput for the binder group can be increased substantially above that allowed for a static assignment of transmission rates.